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(22)Date of filing:

05.02.1996

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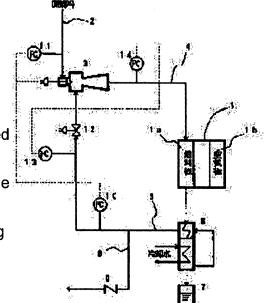
MIKI HIROSHI

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(54) FUEL CELL GENERATING APPARATUS

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a fuel gas system controlling a utilization factor of hydro gen of a fuel cell to a suitable amount corresponding to a load further with operation stable even in a low load. SOLUTION: In a fuel cell generating set recirculating discharge gas of a fuel electrode 1a of a fuel cell 1 mixed with crude fuel in an ejector pump 3 and supplied to the fuel cell 1a as fuel gas, a recirculating gas pressure gage 10 adjusting a crude fuel supply valve of the ejector pump 3 to control a crude fuel supply amount by feeding a control signal is provided in a recirculating gas circuit 5. A recirculating gas flow regulating valve 12 and a recirculating gas flow meter 13 are provided in the recirculating gas circuit 5, a flow amount of recirculating



gas is adjusted corresponding to a load of the fuel cell, further with a delivery pressure gage 14 provided in an outlet of the ejector pump 3, a flow amount of recirculating gas is adjusted by feeding a control signal, so as to hold a delivery pressure of the ejector pump 3 to a prescribed value or more.

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Bibliography.

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- (12) [Official Gazette Type] Open patent official report (A)
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- (43) [Date of Publication] August 15, Heisei 9 (1997).
- (54) [Title of the Invention] Fuel cell power plant.
- (51) [International Patent Classification (6th Edition)]

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[Request for Examination] Un-asking.

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- (21) [Filing Number] Japanese Patent Application No. 8-18011. அதி அரிக்க அசி கிடுக்கு அடிக்க வெரி
- (22) [Filing Date] February 5, Heisei 8 (1996), miturtional regrigibility of paragraphs and fit levisy termode
- (71) [Applicant] ார் ரிரி நாட்டாரண் பெயர்களை பெயர்களை நிரியின் விரி மிரிய விரி சிரியின் சிரியின் விரியிருந்து

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[Name] Shikoku, Inc. research institute. பெரி செரி செரியாக முறிய மகிக்கும் சி. மே. மி. மி. மே. மி. மி. மே. கி. மே. கி. [Address] 2109-8, Yashimanishimachi; Takamatsu-shi, Kagawa-ken.co.ja (u. lo encessin senselle) (71) [Applicant]

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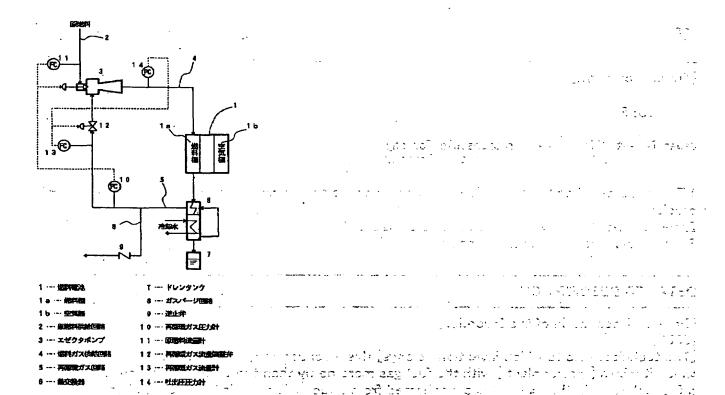
Summary.

(57) [Abstract]

[Technical problem] The hydrogen utilization factor of a fuel cell should be controlled by the proper quantity corresponding to the load, and should be equipped with the fuel gas system further operated by being stabilized also in a low load.

[Means for Solution] The exhaust gas of fuel-electrode 1a of a fuel cell 1 is recycled, and it mixes to original fuel by the ejector pump 3, and is fuel gas. In a thing equipped with the recirculating-gas pressure gage 10 which sends a control signal to the recirculating-gas circuit 5, adjusts the original fuel-supply valve of an ejector pump 3, and controls the amount of original fuel supply by the fuel cell power plant supplied to fuel-electrode 1a The recirculating-gas flow control valve 12 and the recirculating-gas flowmeter 13 are formed in the recirculating-gas for circuit 5. The flow rate of a recirculating gas is adjusted corresponding to the load of a fuel cell, the discharge-pressure pressure gage 14 is further sent for a control signal in preparation for a the outlet of an ejector pump 3, the flow rate of a recirculating gas is adjusted, and the discharge pressure of an ejector pump 3 is held beyond a predetermined value.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)] Skadini da Ja Franskatter puma S. T. a skadravitetarra en nombolikarra [Claim 1] By the fuel cell power plant which recycles the exhaust gas discharged from the fuel electrode of a fuel cell, is mixed to original fuel with the high hydrogen concentration more newly than the exterior supplied in an ejector pump, and generates electricity by supplying the fuel electrode of a fuel cell as fuel gas In the thing equipped with the pressure gage which sends a control signal to the original fuel-supply valve of an ejector pump, adjusts opening to the processor recirculating-gas circuit prepared between the exhaust-gas outlet of a fuel electrode, and the ejector pump, and controls the amount of supply of original fuel The fuel cell power plant characterized by having the flowmeter which controls the flow control valve by which the flow rate of a recirculating gas is adjusted to the aforementioned recirculating-gas circuit corresponding to the load of a fuel cell, and a flow control valve. [Claim 2] The fuel cell power plant according to claim 1 characterized by having the pressure

gage which measures the discharge pressure of an ejector pump between the delivery of an ejector pump, and the fuel gas entrance of a fuel electrode, sends a control signal to it, adjusts the flow control valve of a recirculating-gas circuit, and controls the flow rate of a recirculating

gas.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] this invention relates to the fuel cell power plant which it mixes [power plant] with the fuel gas more newly than the exterior supplied, and makes a fuel cell recycle the exhaust gas discharged from a fuel cell, especially the control unit of the fuel gas.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Development of the fuel cell power plant for on site which uses the byproduction hydrogen obtained as a by-product with production of a product at recently, for example, brine electrolysis, works, synthetic-chemistry works of a certain kind, etc. as original fuel gas of a fuel cell is furthered. Moreover, about this fuel cell power plant, the exhaust gas from the fuel electrode of a fuel cell is recycled with an eye on reducing the consumption of original fuel gas, and lowering the hydrogen utilization factor of a fuel cell and improving output characteristics, it is made to mix by fuel gas, an ejector pump, etc. which are more newly than the exterior supplied, the thing of the recirculating system supplied to the fuel electrode of a fuel cell is known, and various methods are already indicated by Japanese Patent Application No. No. 171751 [seven to].

[0003] Drawing 3 is the typical system flow view of the fuel gas system of the conventional fuel 5 cell power plant which adopted the recirculating system. The fuel electrode and air pole to which 1 expressed typically a fuel cell (phosphoric acid fuel cell), and 1a and 1b in drawing. The original fuel-supply circuit where 2 leads to the byproduction hydrogen source of supply by the side of a site, and 3 An ejector pump, The fuel gas supply circuit by which 4 is connected with fuel-electrode 1a from an ejector pump 3, The recirculating-gas circuit where 5 sends the exhaust gas from fuel-electrode 1a to an ejector pump 3, The drain tank which stores liquid in the heat exchanger for exhaust-gas cooling which installed 6 in the recirculating-gas circuit 5, and the generation water which condensate-ized 7 with the heat exchanger 6. The gas purge circuit prepared by 8 branching from a recirculating-gas circuit, the check valve with which 9 was prepared in the gas purge circuit 8, the recirculating-gas pressure gage with which 10 was prepared in the recirculating-gas circuit 5, and 11 are original fuel flowmeters which measure the flow rate of the original fuel supplied to an ejector pump 3.

[0004] In this composition, after fuel gas produces electrochemical reaction in fuel-electrode 1a of a fuel cell 1 and power generation is presented with it, it is discharged from a fuel gas outlet. The hydrogen which was not used for electrochemical reaction is included, an exhaust gas carries out conduction of the recirculating—gas circuit 5, is led to an ejector pump 3, after being mixed with original fuel with the high hydrogen concentration supplied through the original fuel—supply circuit 2, it carries out conduction of the fuel gas supply circuit 4, considers as fuel gas

again, is supplied to fuel−electrode 1a of a fuel cell 1, and is reused. ﷺ ﷺ [0005] If an exhaust gas is made to recycle as mentioned above and reuse is repeated, since the high impurity concentration in a system will go up and it will have a bad influence on a cell. performance, it emits suitably through the gas purge circuit 8 established in the recirculating-gas circuit 5 by branching, and the method of suppressing accumulation of an impurity is taken. Thus, in order to emit the exhaust gas in a system outside through the gas purge circuit 8, it is necessary to hold the pressure in a system beyond a predetermined value. For this reason, in the above-mentioned composition, regulation control of the opening of the original fuel-supply valve of an ejector pump 3 is carried out by the detecting signal of the recirculating-gas pressure gage 10 built into the recirculating-gas circuit 5, the flow rate of original fuel is changed, and the method of carrying out feedback control of the flow rate with the original fuel flowmeter 11 is taken. Therefore, if the pressure of a recirculating gas falls from a predetermined value, the opening of the original fuel-supply valve of an ejector pump 3 becomes large, the flow rate of original fuel, therefore the flow rate of the fuel gas sent to fuel-electrode 1a will increase, the flow rate of the exhaust gas from fuel-electrode 1a will increase in connection with this, and the pressure in a system will be recovered to a predetermined value. In addition, a check valve 9 plays the role which prevents this so that the adverse current of the air into a system may not arise from the exterior, even if the pressure in a system should decline. [0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Like the above, using the method which controls the pressure of a recirculating gas by the flow rate of original fuel, and is held to a predetermined value, fuel gas is made to recycle and fuel-electrode 1a is supplied in the conventional fuel cell / power plant. Therefore, in this method, since the flow rate of original fuel is controlled only by the pressure of a recirculating gas, especially the hydrogen utilization factor inside a fuel cell, i.e., the ratio of the amount of hydrogen used and the amount of hydrogen supplied, is not controlled, but it has the difficulty of changing in connection with a service condition. For example, if a load becomes large, since the amount of hydrogen consumed inside a fuel cell will become abundant and an exhaust-gas flow rate will fall relatively, in order to compensate this, the opening of the original fuel-supply valve of an ejector pump 3 becomes large, and a lot of original fuel is a state of a second s supplied. Therefore, the flow rate of a recirculating gas will increase as a result, and a hydrogen utilization factor will fall. Moreover, when a flow rate increases in this way, the amount of addition of scattering of the phosphoric acid held at fuel-electrode 1a will increase. Lights by completions [0007] Moreover, in this fuel gas control system, if a load becomes small, since the amount of hydrogen consumed inside a fuel cell will become little and an exhaust-gas flow rate will increase relatively, the flow rate of the original fuel supplied to an ejector pump 3 becomes little. Although the discharge pressure of an ejector pump 3 will fall when the flow rate of original fuel falls, when a discharge pressure becomes below a predetermined value, since the performance of an ejector pump 3 falls rapidly, it has the danger that the stable control of flow becomes impossible, and the [0008] These difficulties are canceled, the hydrogen utilization factor of a fuel cell is controlled by optimum dose corresponding to a load, and the purpose of this invention is to offer the fuel as cell power plant equipped with the fuel gas system further operated by being stabilized also in a का अपने भेजार होते हार के अपने पुणानक संजयिक के कि अने कार उन्हें का बहु का दूर के हैं। का स्कू low load. [0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, it sets to this invention. (1) Recycle the exhaust gas discharged from the fuel electrode of a fuel cell, and it mixes to original fuel with the high hydrogen concentration more newly than the exterior supplied in an ejector pump. By the fuel cell power plant which generates electricity by supplying the fuel electrode of a fuel cell as fuel gas In the thing equipped with the pressure gage which sends a control signal to the recirculating-gas circuit prepared between the exhaust-gas outlet of a fuel electrode, and the ejector pump at the original fuel-supply valve of an ejector pump, adjusts opening, and controls the amount of supply of original fuel Suppose that it has the flowmeter which controls the flow control valve by which the flow rate of a recirculating gas is adjusted to a recirculating-gas circuit corresponding to the load of a fuel cell, and a flow control valve. [0010] (2) Suppose that it has the pressure gage which measures the discharge pressure of an

ejector pump between the delivery of an ejector pump, and the fuel gas entrance of a fuel decision electrode, furthermore sends a control signal to it, adjusts the flow control valve of a service of a service sends a control signal to it, adjusts the flow control valve of a service sends a control signal to it, adjusts the flow control valve of a service sends a control signal to it, adjusts the flow control valve of a service sends a control signal to it, adjusts the flow control valve of a service sends a control signal to it, adjusts the flow control valve of a service sends as the service sends as th recirculating-gas circuit, and controls the flow rate of a recirculating gas. Above (1) If it carries out deliberately, even if the flow rate of the gas which the amount of hydrogen which the load of σ a fuel cell rises, for example and is consumed inside a fuel cell becomes abundant, and it is relatively discharged from a fuel electrode, and is recycled will fall The flow control valve prepared in the recirculating-gas circuit is adjusted corresponding to the load of a fuel cell, and the gas pressure of a recirculating-gas circuit is controlled by carrying out feedback control with a flowmeter by the predetermined value corresponding to the load. Therefore, since it is controlled by optimum dose, without the flow rate of original fuel becoming excessive like before, a hydrogen utilization factor will be held at the predetermined range.

[0011] Furthermore, the above (2) If it carries out deliberately, since the discharge pressure of an ejector pump can be held by adjustment of the flow rate of a recirculating gas beyond a $-, \oplus \cup \pi \gamma$ predetermined value, it will be stabilized without bringing about the rapid fall of the performance of an ejector pump, and control of flow will be possible. [0012] 2.5 A TOO A THE GRADIE STUDY

[Embodiments of the Invention] Drawing 1 is the system flow view of a fuel gas system showing the gestalt of operation of the 1st of the fuel cell power plant of this invention. In drawing, the same sign is given to the component part which has the same function as the component part of the system flow view of the conventional fuel gas system shown in drawing 3, and the overlapping explanation is omitted.

[0013] The feature of the gestalt of operation of the 1st of this invention shown in drawing 1 is to install the recirculating-gas flowmeter 13 which controls the recirculating-gas flow control valve 12 and this further in the recirculating-gas circuit 5 of the conventional system shown in 📑 drawing 3 . In this composition, the recirculating-gas flow control valve 12 is adjusted 1 , $\frac{1}{2}$ and corresponding to the load of a fuel cell 1. By carrying out feedback control with the recirculating-gas flowmeter 13, the gas pressure of the recirculating-gas circuit 5 will be as model. controlled by the predetermined value corresponding to the load, and with the pressure detected with the recirculating-gas pressure gage 10 further Since the original fuel-supply valve of an appearance. ejector pump 3 is adjusted, without the flow rate of original fuel becoming excessive like before, it will be controlled by optimum dose and a hydrogen utilization factor will be held at the torontal the ය වෙන දෙන අතුර වන අතුරුම් කෙන්වී අතුරුම් මෙන් මුද්ද වෙන්න අතුළ කරනු අතුරුම් දැන්න දැන් සේදු ලද ද predetermined range.

[0014] Drawing 2 is the system flow view of a fuel gas system showing the gestalt of operation. of the 2nd of the fuel cell power plant of this invention. It is in the point equipped with the discharge-pressure pressure gage 14 which measures the discharge pressure of an ejector pump 3 between the fuel gas entrances of the delivery of the ejector pump 3 of the gestalt of the 1st : operation which showed the feature of the gestalt of the 2nd operation to drawing 1 and fuel- 5 a electrode 1a which were shown in this view, sends a control signal, adjusts the recirculating-gas. flow control valve 12, and controls the flow rate of a recirculating gas. In this composition, [10,00] control of flow stabilized without having held the discharge pressure of an ejector pump 3 1840 ye beyond the predetermined value, and producing the rapid fall of the performance of an ejector sa pump by adjusting the flow rate of a recirculating gas even if it was in low load conditions can be performed.

[0015]

1997年1997年,李明基本,1995年中,大学新疆大学中国大学 [Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, it sets to this invention and is (1). The exhaust gas discharged from the fuel electrode of a fuel cell is recycled. By the fuel cell power plant which is mixed to original fuel with the high hydrogen concentration more newly than the exterior supplied in an ejector pump, and generates electricity by supplying the fuel electrode of a fuel cell as fuel gas In the thing equipped with the pressure gage which sends a control signal to the recirculating-gas circuit prepared between the exhaust-gas outlet of a fuel electrode, and the ejector pump at the original fuel-supply valve of an ejector pump, adjusts opening, and controls the amount of supply of original fuel Since it has the flowmeter which controls the flow control valve by which the flow rate of a recirculating gas is adjusted to a recirculating-gas circuit corresponding to the load of a fuel cell, and a flow control valve The fuel cell power plant

.. ...

equipped with the fuel gas system by which the hydrogen utilization factor of a fuel cell is controlled by optimum dose corresponding to a load will be obtained.

[0016] In the above-mentioned fuel cell power plant further (2) Moreover, between the delivery of an ejector pump, and the fuel gas entrance of a fuel electrode If it has the pressure gage which measures the discharge pressure of an ejector pump, sends a control signal, adjusts the flow control valve of a recirculating-gas circuit, and controls the flow rate of a recirculating gas. The fuel cell power plant equipped with the fuel gas system by which the hydrogen utilization factor of a fuel cell is not only controlled by optimum dose, but is further operated by being stabilized in a low load corresponding to a load will be obtained.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The system flow view of a fuel gas system showing the gestalt of operation of the 1st of the fuel cell power plant of this invention

[Drawing 2] The system flow view of a fuel gas system showing the gestalt of operation of the 2nd of the fuel cell power plant of this invention

[Drawing 3] The typical system flow view of the fuel gas system of the conventional fuel cell power plant which adopted the recirculating system

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[Description of Notations]

- 1 Fuel Electrode
- 1a Fuel electrode
- 1b Air pole
- 2 Original Fuel-Supply Circuit
- 3 Ejector Pump
- 4 Fuel Gas Supply Circuit
- 5 Recirculating-Gas Circuit
- 6 Heat Exchanger
- 7 Drain Tank
- 8 Gas Purge Circuit
- 9 Check Valve
- 10 Recirculating-Gas Pressure Gage
- 11 Original Fuel Flowmeter
- 12 Recirculating-Gas Flowmeter
- 13 Recirculating-Gas Flow Control Valve
- 14 Discharge-Pressure Pressure Gage

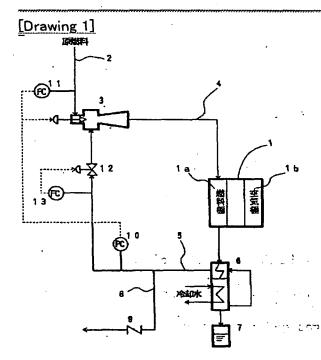
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DRAWINGS



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13 … 再活躍ガス流艦計

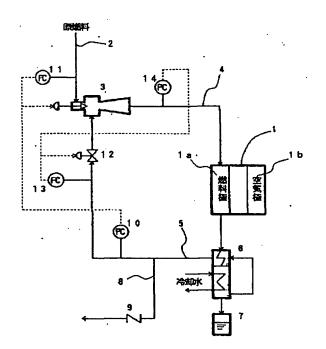
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9 … 遊此并

2 -- 原始科供給回路

10 … 再施環ガス圧力計

3 -- エゼクタポンプ

1 1 -- 原燃料流量計

4 … 燃料ガス供給回路

12 … 再稿電ガス流音調整弁

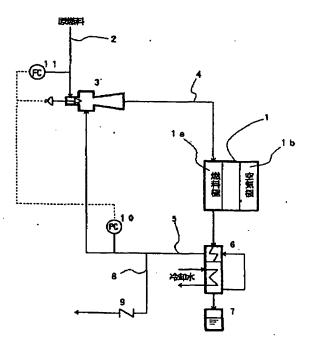
5 … 再構造ガス回路

13 -- 再福電ガス流量計

6 --- 触交換器

14 --- 吐出开开油

[Drawing 3]



1 ########

. .

1 a … 州本福

7 --- ドレンタンク

1 b ···· 空気程

8 … ガスパージ回路

3 --- エゼクタポンプ

A JETE34.

10 … 再復知ガス圧力計

4 … 燃料ガス供給回路

11 --- 网络称流量計

5 … 再復期がス国路

[Translation done.]

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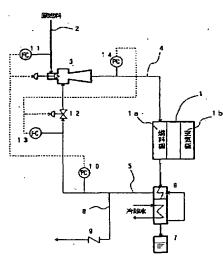
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(54) 【発明の名称】 燃料電池発電装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】燃料電池の水素利用率が負荷に対応して適量に 制御され、さらには低負荷においても安定して運転され る燃料ガス系統を備えたものとする。

【解決手段】燃料電池1の燃料極1aの排出ガスを再循 環してエゼクタポンプ3で原燃料に混合し、燃料ガスと して燃料極1 aに供給する燃料電池発電装置で、再循環 ガス回路5に、制御信号を送ってエゼクタポンプ3の原 燃料供給弁を調整して原燃料供給量を制御する再循環ガ ス圧力計10を備えるものにおいて、再循環ガス回路5 に再循環ガス流量調整弁12と再循環ガス流量計13と を設けて、燃料電池の負荷に対応して再循環ガスの流量 を調整し、さらにエゼクタポンプ3の出口に吐出圧圧力 計14を備えて制御信号を送って再循環ガスの流量を調 整し、エゼクタポンプ3の吐出圧を所定値以上に保持す る。



1 --- 透彩電池

8 … ガスノケージ回動

平止死 …

… 育復環ガス圧が計 11 -- 原始宗连续社

域型が支機器では 5・・・ 再店環ガス回路

12 … 男のごガス済金海牧井 13 -- 再構造がス流量計

14 --- 生は世田力計

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】燃料電池の燃料極から排出される排出ガスを再循環して、エゼクタポンプにおいて外部より新たに供給される水素濃度の高い原燃料に混合し、燃料ガスとして燃料電池の燃料極に供給して発電を行う燃料電池発電装置で、燃料極の排出ガス出口とエゼクタポンプとの間に設けられた再循環ガス回路に、エゼクタポンプの原燃料供給弁に制御信号を送って開度を調整し原燃料の供給量を制御する圧力計を備えたものにおいて、前記再循環ガス回路に、燃料電池の負荷に対応して再循環ガスの流量が調整される流量調整弁と流量調整弁を制御する流量計とを備えたことを特徴とする燃料電池発電装置。

【請求頃2】エゼクタポンプの吐出口と燃料極の燃料ガス入口との間に、エゼクタポンプの吐出圧を測定し、制御信号を送って再循環ガス回路の流量調整弁を調整して再循環ガスの流量を制御する圧力計を備えたことを特徴とする請求項1に記載の燃料電池発電装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、燃料電池から排出される排出ガスを、外部より新たに供給される燃料ガスと混合して燃料電池に再循環させる燃料電池発電装置、特にその燃料ガスの制御装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】最近、例えば食塩電解工場やある種の合成化学工場などで製品の生産に伴って副生物として得られる副生水素を、燃料電池の原燃料ガスとして利用するオンサイト用燃料電池発電装置の開発が進められている。また、この燃料電池発電装置について、原燃料ガスの消費量を低減すること、並びに燃料電池の水素利用率を低めて出力特性を改善することを狙いとして、燃料電池の燃料極からの排出ガスを再循環して、外部より新たに供給される燃料ガスとエゼクタポンプ等によって混合させ、燃料電池の燃料極へと供給する再循環方式のものが知られており、既に特願平7-171751号に各種方式が開示されている。

【0003】図3は、再循環方式を採用した従来の燃料電池発電装置の燃料ガス系統の代表的なシステムフロー図である。図において、1は燃料電池(リン酸型燃料電池)、1a、1bは模式的に表した燃料極と空気極、2はサイト側の副生水素供給源に通じる原燃料供給回路、3はエゼクタポンプ、4はエゼクタポンプ3より燃料極1aへと連結される燃料ガス供給回路、5は燃料極1aからの排出ガスをエゼクタボンプ3へと送る再循環ガス回路、6は再循環ガス回路5に設置した排出ガス冷却用の熱交換器、7は熱交換器6で凝縮液化した生成水を貯液するドレンタンク、8は再循環ガス回路より分岐して設けられたガスパージ回路、9はガスパージ回路8に設けられた逆止弁、10は再循環ガス回路5に設けられた再循環ガス圧力計、また、11はエゼクタポンプ3に供

給される原燃料の流量を計測する原燃料流量計である。 【0004】本構成において、燃料ガスは、燃料電池1の燃料極1aにおいて電気化学反応を生じて発電に供されたのち、燃料ガス出口より排出される。排出ガスは、電気化学反応に使用されなかった水素を含んでおり、再循環ガス回路5を通流してエゼクタポンプ3へと導かれ、原燃料供給回路2を通して供給される水素濃度の高い原燃料と混合されたのち、燃料ガス供給回路4を通流して再び燃料ガスとして燃料電池1の燃料極1aへと供給され、再利用されている。

【0005】上記のように排出ガスを再循環させて再利 用を繰り返すと、系内の不純物濃度が上昇し、電池性能 に悪影響を及ぼすので、再循環ガス回路5に分岐して設 けられたガスパージ回路8を通して適宜放出し、不純物 の蓄積を抑制する方法が採られている。このようにガス パージ回路8を通して系内の排出ガスを外部に放出する には、系内の圧力を所定値以上に保持する必要がある。 このため上記の構成においては、再循環ガス回路5に組 み込まれた再循環ガス圧力計10の検出信号によりエゼ クタポンプ3の原燃料供給弁の開度を調節制御して原燃 料の流量を変化させ、その流量を原燃料流量計11によ りフィードバック制御する方法が採られている。したが って、再循環ガスの圧力が所定値より下がると、エゼク タポンプ3の原燃料供給弁の開度が大きくなり、原燃料 の流量、したがって燃料極1aに送られる燃料ガスの流 量が増大し、これに伴って、燃料極1aからの排出ガス の流量が増大して、系内の圧力が所定値に回復する。な お、逆止弁9は、系内の圧力が万が一低下する場合があ っても、外部より系内への空気の逆流が生じないように これを防止する役割を果たすものである。

[0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上記のごとく、従来の 燃料電池発電装置においては、再循環ガスの圧力を原燃 料の流量により制御して所定値に保持する方式を用い て、燃料ガスを再循環させて燃料極1aへ供給してい る。したがって、本方式においては、原燃料の流量が再 循環ガスの圧力のみによって制御されるので、燃料電池 内部での水素利用率、すなわち使用される水素量と供給 される水素量との比は、とくに制御されず、運転条件に 伴って変動してしまうという難点がある。例えば、負荷 が大きくなると、燃料電池内部で消費される水素量が多 量となり、相対的に排出ガス流量が低下するので、これ を補うためにエゼクタポンプ3の原燃料供給弁の開度が 大きくなり、多量の原燃料が供給される。したがって、 結果的に再循環ガスの流量が増大し水素利用率が低下す ることとなる。また、このように流量が増大すると、燃 料極1 aに保持されたリン酸の飛散量が増大することと なる。

【0007】また、本燃料ガス制御方式においては、負荷が小さくなると、燃料電池内部で消費される水素量が

少量となり、相対的に排出ガス流量が増大するので、エゼクタポンプ3に供給される原燃料の流量が少量となる。原燃料の流量が下がるとエゼクタポンプ3の吐出圧が低下することとなるが、吐出圧が所定値以下になるとエゼクタポンプ3の性能は急激に低下するので、安定した流量制御が出来なくなってしまう危険性がある。

【0008】本発明の目的は、これらの難点を解消し、 燃料電池の水素利用率が負荷に対応して適量に制御され、さらには低負荷においても安定して運転される燃料 ガス系統を備えた燃料電池発電装置を提供することにある。

[0009]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記の目的を達成するために、本発明においては、

(1) 燃料電池の燃料極から排出される排出ガスを再循環して、エゼクタポンプにおいて外部より新たに供給される水素濃度の高い原燃料に混合し、燃料ガスとして燃料電池の燃料極に供給して発電を行う燃料電池発電装置で、燃料極の排出ガス出口とエゼクタポンプとの間に設けられた再循環ガス回路にエゼクタポンプの原燃料供給弁に制御信号を送って開度を調整し原燃料の供給量を制御する圧力計を備えたものにおいて、再循環ガス回路に、燃料電池の負荷に対応して再循環ガスの流量が調整される流量調整弁と流量調整弁を制御する流量計とを備えることとする。

【0010】(2) さらに、エゼクタポンプの吐出口と燃料極の燃料ガス入口との間に、エゼクタポンプの吐出圧を測定し、制御信号を送って再循環ガス回路の流量調整弁を調整して再循環ガスの流量を制御する圧力計を備えることとする。上記(1) のごとくとすれば、例えば燃料電池の負荷が上昇して燃料電池内部で消費される水素量が多量となり、相対的に燃料極からの排出され再循環するガスの流量が低下することとなっても、再循環ガス回路に設けた流量調整弁を燃料電池の負荷に対応して調整し、流量計によってフィードバック制御することにより再循環ガス回路のガス圧力が負荷に対応した所定値に制御される。したがって、原燃料の流量が、例えば従来のように過大となってしまうことなく、適量に制御されるので、水素利用率が所定範囲に保持されることとなる。

【0011】さらに、上記(2) のごとくとすれば、再循環ガスの流量の調整によりエゼクタポンプの吐出圧を所定値以上に保持できるので、エゼクタポンプの性能の急激な低下をもたらすことなく安定して流量制御ができることとなる。

[0012]

【発明の実施の形態】図1は、本発明の燃料電池発電装置の第1の実施の形態を示す燃料ガス系統のシステムフロー図である。図において、図3に示した従来の燃料ガス系統のシステムフロー図の構成部品と同一機能を有する構成部品には同一符号が付されており、重複する説明

は省略する。

【0013】図1に示した本発明の第1の実施の形態の特徴は、図3に示した従来のシステムの再循環ガス回路5に、さらに再循環ガス流量調整弁12とこれを制御する再循環ガス流量計13が設置されていることにある。本構成においては、再循環ガス流量調整弁12を燃料電池1の負荷に対応して調整し、再循環ガス流量計13によってフィードバック制御することにより再循環ガス回路5のガス圧力が負荷に対応した所定値に制御されることとなり、さらに、再循環ガス圧力計10で検出された圧力により、エゼクタポンプ3の原燃料供給弁が調整されるので、原燃料の流量は、例えば従来のように過大となってしまうことなく、適量に制御され、水素利用率が所定範囲に保持されることとなる。

【0014】図2は、本発明の燃料電池発電装置の第2の実施の形態を示す燃料ガス系統のシステムフロー図である。本図に示した第2の実施の形態の特徴は、図1に示した第1の実施の形態のエゼクタポンプ3の吐出口と燃料極1aの燃料ガス入口との間に、エゼクタポンプ3の吐出圧を測定し、制御信号を送って再循環ガス流量調整弁12を調整して再循環ガスの流量を制御する吐出圧圧力計14を備えた点にある。本構成においては、仮に低負荷条件にあっても、再循環ガスの流量を調整することによりエゼクタポンプ3の吐出圧が所定値以上に保持され、エゼクタポンプの性能の急激な低下を生じることなく安定した流量制御ができることとなる。

[0015]

【発明の効果】上述のように、本発明においては、

(1) 燃料電池の燃料極から排出される排出ガスを再循環して、エゼクタポンプにおいて外部より新たに供給される水素濃度の高い原燃料に混合し、燃料ガスとして燃料電池の燃料極に供給して発電を行う燃料電池発電装置で、燃料極の排出ガス出口とエゼクタポンプとの間に設けられた再循環ガス回路にエゼクタポンプの原燃料供給弁に制御信号を送って開度を調整し原燃料の供給量を制御する圧力計を備えたものにおいて、再循環ガス回路に、燃料電池の負荷に対応して再循環ガスの流量が調整される流量調整弁と流量調整弁を制御する流量計とを備えることとしたので、燃料電池の水素利用率が負荷に対応して適量に制御される燃料ガス系統を備えた燃料電池発電装置が得られることとなった。

【0016】(2) また、上記の燃料電池発電装置において、さらに、エゼクタポンプの吐出口と燃料極の燃料ガス入口との間に、エゼクタポンプの吐出圧を測定し、制御信号を送って再循環ガス回路の流量調整弁を調整して再循環ガスの流量を制御する圧力計を備えることとすれば、燃料電池の水素利用率が負荷に対応して適量に制御されるばかりでなく、さらには低負荷においても安定して運転される燃料ガス系統を備えた燃料電池発電装置が得られることとなる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の燃料電池発電装置の第1の実施の形態 を示す燃料ガス系統のシステムフロー図

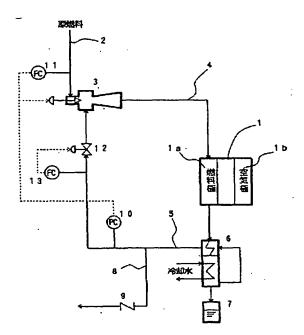
【図2】本発明の燃料電池発電装置の第2の実施の形態 を示す燃料ガス系統のシステムフロー図

【図3】再循環方式を採用した従来の燃料電池発電装置 の燃料ガス系統の代表的なシステムフロー図

【符号の説明】

- 1 燃料電極
- 1 a 燃料極
- 1 b 空気極
- 2 原燃料供給回路

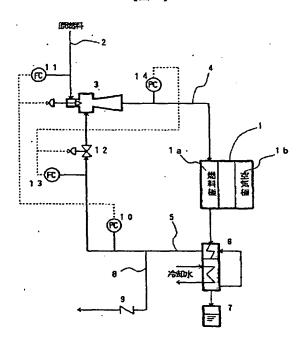
[図1]



- 1 --- 燃料配出
- 7 --- ドレンタンク
- 1 a --- 燃料額
- 8 … ガスパージ回路
- 1 b --- 空気極
- 9 --- 逆止井
- 2 … 版燃料收拾回路
- 10 … 再体理ガス圧力計
- 3 --- エゼクタポンプ
- 11 … 原燃料流量計
- 4 … 焼料ガス供給回路 5 … 再落電ガス回路
- 12 … 再循環ガス流量超熱弁 13 … 再面環ガス流運計
- **各类交换 -- 8**

- 3 エゼクタポンプ
- 燃料ガス供給回路 4
- 5 再循環ガス回路
- 6 熱交換器
- 7 ドレンタンク
- 8 ガスパージ回路
- 9 逆止弁
- 10 再循環ガス圧力計
- 原燃料流量計 1 1
- 1 2 再循環ガス流量計
- 13 再循環ガス流量調整弁
- 14 吐出圧圧力計

[図2]



1 --- 燃料症也

7 … ドレンタンケ

1 a --- 燃料癌

8 … ガスパージ回路

1 6 … 空気経

9 --- 逆止弁

2 --- 原燃料供給回路

10 … 再随環ガス圧力計

3 … エゼクタポンプ

11…原物料流量計

4 … 燃料ガス供給回路

5 … 再循環ガス回路

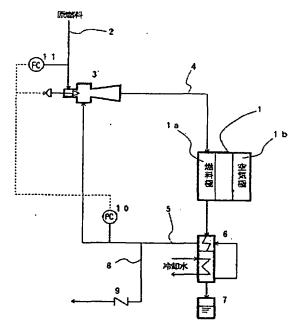
12 … 丙陽環ガス液量調整弁

13 -- 関係環ガス流風計

6 --- 熱交換器

14 --- 吐出压压力計

【図3】



1 … 燃料策池

6 --- 熱交換器

I G -- ADI-TIM

7 --- ドレンタンク

1 6 --- 空気福

8 … ガスパージ回路

2 … 原燃料供給回路

9 … 逆止弁

3 --- エゼクタポンプ

10 … 再宿頃ガス圧力計

4 … 燃料ガス供給回路

11 … 原燃料流量計

5 … 再応理ガス回路

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